Title: "Great is Your Faithfulness"

Text: Lamentations 3:22-24

Introduction

1. **Welcome the New Year with Hope:**
   The beginning of a new year is a time to reflect, renew, and set our hearts toward God's faithfulness. Amid uncertainties, we find assurance in His steadfast love.
2. **Context of Lamentations:**
   Written by the prophet Jeremiah after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C., this book is a poetic expression of grief. Yet, even in despair, Jeremiah proclaims hope in God's unchanging character.
3. **Relevance Today:**
   As we step into 2025, we may face challenges, but this passage assures us that God's love and mercy remain constant.

1. God's Love Never Ceases (v. 22)

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases..."

- **Exposition:**
  - "Steadfast love" (hesed) refers to God's covenantal, loyal love that endures forever.
  - Despite Israel's rebellion, God's love remains unbroken.
- **Application:**
  - Reflect on how God's love sustained us through the past year.
  - Trust that His love will guide us through the uncertainties of 2025.
- **Illustration:**
  Share a personal or biblical story of God's love prevailing in difficult times.

2. God's Mercies are New Every Morning (v. 23)

"...his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning."

- **Exposition:**
  - God's mercies are daily renewed, sufficient for each day's challenges.
  - His mercy offers forgiveness, restoration, and strength for new beginnings.
- **Application:**
  - Let go of past failures and embrace the new opportunities God provides.
  - Begin each day in 2025 with gratitude and reliance on His mercy.
- **Illustration:**
  Use the image of a sunrise as a symbol of fresh mercies and hope.

3. God's Faithfulness is Great (v. 23)

"Great is your faithfulness."

- **Exposition:**
  - Jeremiah proclaims God's faithfulness, even while surrounded by destruction.

    - God's promises are reliable, and His character is unchanging.
- **Application:**
    - Remember God’s faithfulness in personal and communal challenges from the past year.
    - Enter 2025 with confidence that He will fulfill His promises.
- **Illustration:**
  Compare God's faithfulness to a firm foundation—a rock upon which we can build our lives.

4. God is Our Portion and Hope (v. 24)

"The LORD is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in him."

- **Exposition:**
    - "Portion" signifies inheritance and ultimate satisfaction. Jeremiah declares God as his greatest treasure.
    - Hope is rooted not in circumstances but in the unchanging nature of God.
- **Application:**
    - Commit to making God your priority in 2025, finding contentment and purpose in Him.
    - Cultivate hope by focusing on His promises rather than fears or uncertainties.
- **Illustration:**
  Share a testimony of someone who found hope in God during challenging times.

Conclusion

1. **Encourage Personal Reflection:**
    - How has God’s steadfast love, fresh mercies, and great faithfulness impacted your life?
    - In what areas of your life will you trust Him more this year?
2. **Call to Action:**
    - Begin the year with a renewed commitment to God.
    - Memorize Lamentations 3:22-24 as a declaration of trust and hope.
3. **Lead a Prayer of Dedication:**
    - Thank God for His love, mercy, and faithfulness.
    - Commit the year 2025 to His guidance and care.

Closing Thought:

As we step into 2025, let us be anchored in the truth that God’s love never fails, His mercies are new every morning, and His faithfulness is unshakable. Trust in Him, for He is our portion and our hope!